of clinical establishments in the country. National Council for clinical establishments has been set up to determine the standards for clinical establishments, classify the clinical establishment into different categories, develop minimum standards and their periodic review, compile, maintain and update a national register of clinical establishments, perform any other function determined by the Central Government, from time to time.

Modest growth in agriculture and allied services

*139. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by the Central Statistical Organization, there is modest growth in agriculture and allied services during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for low growth in the production of foodgrains during 2007-08; and

(d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per Advance Estimates of National Income 2007-08 by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) released on 7th February, 2008, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors during the year 2007-08 in the country measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices (1999-2000) is estimated at 2.6 per cent.

(c) As per second advance estimates, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 is estimated at 219.32 million tonnes as compared to 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07, registering an increase of 2.04 million tonnes.

(d) Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, recently, the Government has taken following steps:

- Launched the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs. 4,882 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to produce additional 10 million tonnes of rice. 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan period which aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Plan period, through incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector.
- Established National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to assist and support in planning and implementation of programmes in the rainfed areas.
- National Horticulture Mission is under implementation.
- Provided additional financial resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.
- National Policy for Farmers, 2007 was launched in November, 2007.